

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A front-end loader for a percutaneous transluminal system for a prosthetic occluder, comprising:

a proximal portion comprising a proximal end, a distal end, and an expanded lumen positioned therebetween, said expanded lumen tapering towards said distal end of said proximal portion; and

a distal portion[,] comprising[:] a tube ~~having~~comprising a proximal end, a distal end, a lumen extending therethrough, and a beveled end, said beveled end positioned at said distal end of said tube, wherein said beveled end receives said prosthetic occluder.

Claim 2 (original): The front-end loader of claim 1, wherein the beveled end is chamfered.

Claim 3 (original): The front-end loader of claim 2, wherein the beveled end is chamfered around the perimeter of the distal end of the tube.

Claim 4 (cancelled)

Claim 5 (currently amended): The front-end loader of claim [4]1, wherein the ~~tapered~~ expanded lumen is conically shaped.

Claim 6 (original): The front-end loader of claim 1, wherein said prosthetic occluder comprises an intracardiac occluder.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The front-end loader of claim 6, wherein said intracardiac occluder comprises an occluder for treating an atrial septal defect.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The front-end loader of claim 6, wherein said intracardiac occluder comprises an occluder for treating a ventricular septal defect.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The front-end loader of claim 6, wherein said intracardiac occluder comprises an occluder for treating patent ductus arteriosus.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The front-end loader of claim 6, wherein said intracardiac occluder comprises an occluder for treating a patent foramen ovale.

Claim 11 (original): The front-end loader of claim 1, wherein said beveled end receives said prosthetic occluder to withdraw said prosthetic occluder from a patient's body.

Claim 12 (original): The front-end loader of claim 1, wherein said beveled end receives said prosthetic occluder to deliver said prosthetic occluder into a patient's body.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The front-end loader of claim 1, wherein said beveled end receives said prosthetic occluder through said distal end of said tube.

Claim 14 (currently amended): A front-end loader for a percutaneous transluminal system for a prosthetic occluder, comprising:

a proximal portion comprising a proximal end, a distal end, and an expanded lumen positioned therebetween, said expanded lumen tapering towards said distal end of said proximal portion; and

a distal portion[,] comprising[:] a tube ~~having~~comprising a proximal end, a distal end, a lumen extending therethrough, and a chamfered rim, said chamfered rim positioned at said distal end of said tube, said chamfered rim comprising an outer rim and an inner rim, said inner rim positioned proximal to said outer rim, wherein said distal end of said tube receives said prosthetic occluder.

Claim 15 (currently amended): The front-end loader of claim 14, wherein the distal end of said tube is beveled.

Claim 16 (original): The front-end loader of claim 14, wherein the chamfered rim is chamfered around the perimeter of the distal end of the tube.

Claim 17 (cancelled)

Claim 18 (currently amended): The front-end loader of claim ~~17~~14, wherein the ~~tapered~~ expanded lumen is conically shaped.

Claim 19 (original): The front-end loader of claim 14, wherein said prosthetic occluder comprises an intracardiac occluder.

Claim 20 (currently amended): The front-end loader of claim 19, wherein said intracardiac occluder comprises an occluder for treating an atrial septal defect.

Claim 21 (currently amended): The front-end loader of claim 19, wherein said intracardiac occluder comprises an occluder for treating a ventricular septal defect.

Claim 22 (currently amended): The front-end loader of claim 19, wherein said intracardiac occluder comprises an occluder for treating patent ductus arteriosus.

Claim 23 (currently amended): The front-end loader of claim 19, wherein said intracardiac occluder comprises an occluder for treating a patent foramen ovale.

Claim 24 (currently amended): The front-end loader of claim 14, wherein said distal end of said tube receives said prosthetic occluder to withdraw said prosthetic occluder from a patient's body.

Claim 25 (currently amended): The front-end loader of claim 14, wherein said distal end of said tube receives said prosthetic occluder to deliver said prosthetic occluder into a patient's body.

Claim 26 (currently amended): The front-end loader of claim 14, wherein said distal end of said tube receives said prosthetic occluder through said distal end of said tube.

Claim 27 (currently amended): A method for delivering a collapsible prosthetic occluder to a patient, comprising:

providing a front-end loader comprising:

a proximal portion comprising an expanded lumen; and

a distal portion[,] comprising[:] a tube ~~having~~comprising a proximal end, a distal end, a lumen extending therethrough, and a beveled end, said beveled end positioned at said distal end of said tube;

receiving said prosthetic occluder in the lumen of said tube; and

delivering said prosthetic occluder to the patient.

Claim 28 (original): The method of claim 27, further comprising:

introducing said beveled end into a lumen of a portion of an introducer sheath for the prosthetic occluder and crossing a gland.

Claim 29 (currently amended): A method for retrieving a collapsible prosthetic occluder from a patient, comprising:

providing a front-end loader comprising:

a proximal portion comprising an expanded lumen; and

a distal portion[,] comprising[:] a tube ~~having~~comprising a proximal end, a distal end, a lumen extending therethrough, and a beveled end, said beveled end positioned at said distal end of said tube, wherein said beveled end is chamfered;
receiving said prosthetic occluder in the lumen of said tube; and
retrieving said prosthetic occluder from the patient.